

June 18, 2014

It was June 18, 1935, and FDR was probably still celebrating the New Deal passage, which occurred two days earlier, and Hitler was most certainly celebrating the conclusion of British-German Naval Agreement, which had taken place earlier in the day, giving him a larger navy than that allowed under the terms of the Versailles Treaty.

Babe Ruth had played his last game a couple of weeks before, and Gene Sarazen had won the second Masters (then known as the Augusta Invitational) and the winner's purse of \$1500. (The tournament wasn't yet a major, but the U.S. Open and PGA paid the winner \$1000, and the British Open winners share was £100.) Jones and Roberts knew what they were doing.

Evelyn wasn't thinking about any of those important current events, as she was on her way to Petrie Hospital in Murphy, North Carolina for her own current event. Soon after she arrived at the hospital, I arrived.

This last 80 years have passed awfully fast, and I am more confused than ever. Somebody once told me - or I dreamed it...or read it - that senior citizens gained wisdom as they grew older. I have already confessed to being a southern, conservative, republican, uneducated, dumb, evangelical (SCRUDE), and I understand less than ever. In fact, the gap between what I know and don't know is widening.

For example, I don't understand free trade, even though economics was one of my best subjects in college. After my D in Econ 101, I considered changing my major to economics. I was 18 years old, and I was way smarter than I am now - I was a New Deal Democrat -but after due consideration, I stayed in my fraternity major.

I have had the benefit of knowing lots of people who are almost as smart as I am, and a famous economist attempted to explain free trade to me. He said, for example, if Spain produced wine that England wanted, and England produced wool that Spain wanted, they would have a good situation for trading. The sheep people would stay in England, and the wine people would stay in Spain, and they wouldn't need protective tariffs. It seems to me that our "free trade" isn't free, and our main export is jobs. I read somewhere, or I heard, that 40% of what U.S. companies manufacture in China, comes back to the U.S. as imports.

I was watching a talking head on the television, and he said we have the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world, and that has something to do with our companies moving to other countries.

I don't understand how we can keep spending more money than we are taking in. I have tried it, and it didn't work out for me. I have a color printer, and I could print money like the government does. If it's called counterfeiting and illegal for me, why isn't it the same for government?

I don't understand the alliances that are being formed now, particularly in the Middle East. I read, or heard, or someone told me, that Shia Iran is the most dangerous Mid East country to our long-term security, but we are training Shia Iraqis (not a single Sunni) to fight alongside the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. I don't understand who we are for and against in the Middle East.

I don't understand why we are not loved by Muslims. We have made a lot of them rich by buying their oil, and even though we could produce all we need, we don't. And we invite them to come and live with us, and build their mosques, and furnish them healthcare, etc.

I don't understand why many so called Christian ministers in main line churches are treating the Bible if it's, at best, only a general guidebook, and not the inspired word of the God who created the world. It is the same God that is allowing me to still be living almost seven years - and 13 surgeries - after the Melanoma was discovered, and for three and a half years after it was Stage 4 and in my tiny brain. I don't understand why He let me live, but I feel great ... and I am very grateful.

Don't think this a comprehensive list of what I don't know. This is only a tiny part.